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RICH UHRICH COINS

2017 Coin Year in Review

December 29, 2017

An Exciting FUN show upcoming in Tampa

I will have a corner table #516 at the upcoming FUN show in Tampa, January 4 - 6, 2018 at the Tampa Convention Center. I and my table assistant Dick Graham look forward to seeing you there! Please note, we will not be attending the show on Sunday, January 7.

2017 Coin Year in Review

Since 2010, I have issued my annual Coin Year in Review. Here is the 2017 edition of Coin Year in Review:

- BEST FIND #1 - - A new die marriage for Bust Quarters was discovered! It is the 1822 B-3, with the standard 1822 obverse paired with the distinctive 1823/2 reverse!
- BEST FIND #2 - - Over 600 gold sovereigns and nearly 300 half-sovereigns were found in a piano in England. Estimated value is at least $225K.
- BEST FIND #3 - - Two coins kept in a family treasure box for decades are identified as 1793 Chain cents. They graded F-15 and F-12 at PCGS.
- BEST FIND #4 - - The 1818 half eagle variety BD-3, previously thought

to be a 5D/50, has now proven to be a 5D/I.

- BEST FIND #5 - - A collector purchased a 1909 VDB Lincoln cent thought to be a business strike, which turned out to be a proof. It graded PCGS PR66RB and sold for $41,125.

- BEST FIND #6 - - A two-headed 2000-P Jefferson nickel was discovered.

- BEST FIND #7 - - A new variety of 1968-S proof Kennedy half dollar was discovered. It has a Serif S mintmark over a Knob S mintmark.

- BEST FINDS #8 & #9 - - 1982-D Small date cent on a bronze planchet, and a 1983-D cent on a bronze planchet. They were sold for $18,800 and $17,625, respectively.

- BEST FIND #10 - - Approximately 600 silver Roman denarii were found in England. Estimated value is over $200K.

- AND A DIFFERENT KIND OF DISCOVERY - - A very deceptive counterfeit of an 1872-S half dollar was discovered by John Frost, Dick Osburn, and Bill Bugert. Currently 5 are known, 2 of which were certified.

- GOLD AND SILVER UP THIS YEAR - - Gold closed at $1,303 (up 13% from 12/31/2016's close of $1,152) and silver closed at $16.91 (up 6% from 12/31/2016's close of $15.96).

- AND YOU THINK COINS ARE EXPENSIVE - - A bowl from China's Song Dynasty sold for over $37 million at auction. I will sell all of the bowls I own in one lot for 1/1000th of that amount!

- YOU MIGHT BE PAYING MORE, OR MAYBE YOU WON'T BE - - Heritage and Stacks Bowers increase their buyer's fee to 20% effective after the August 2016 ANA convention. You'll pay more unless you adjust your bids to reflect the buyer's fee increase.

- A NEW, BUT OLD, MINTMARK APPEARS - - On the 2017-P Lincoln cent. The Lincoln cent had never had a "P" mintmark until now.

- END OF AN ERA - - On September 30, 2017, the U. S. Mint ended their mail order program, which had existed in some form since the mid-1850's.

- CONGRATULATIONS TO - - Charles Link completed the 453 coin die marriage set of Capped Bust Half Dollars during 2016. There are only two complete collections, and Mr. Link's collection is all PCGS graded except for one coin. In 2017, Mr. Link completed his set of <u>die states</u> of the Capped Bust Half Dollars. Another amazing accomplishment!

- CONGRATULATIONS TO - - Gary Adkins, new President of the American Numismatic Association.

- CONGRATULATIONS TO - - ANA Numismatist of the Year David Lange, ANA Dealer of the Year Tony Terranova, ANA Lifetime Achievement Award winner Julian Leidman, ANA Farran Zerbe Award winner Brian Fanton, and ANA Elvira Clain-Stefanelli Memorial Award winner Charmy Harker.

- ECONOMIST BACKS REISSUING THE $500 BILL - - Economist Jay Zagorsky calls this a national security issue, as recent national disasters such as hurricanes and fires result in lack of access to cash because of electrical or other issues. (For example, when Hurricane Irma hit central Florida, our bank was closed for 13 business days!)

- BLINK AND YOU MISSED IT - - The 2017 Congratulation set sold on April 4 sold out in 2 minutes! 75,000 sets were sold.

- BLINK AND YOU'LL SEE IT - - The Royal Canadian Mint issued the first circulating glow-in-the-dark coin, which is a 2017 $2 coin.

- BLINK AND YOU'LL MISS THE FLIP - - An 1804 dollar in PCGS PR65 sold for $3.29 million on March 31, and it was resold on April 3 to a happy collector.

- OOOOOH, OOOOOOOUUH, OOOOOH - - The country of Niue issued a UFO-shaped $2 silver coin celebrating the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO incident.

- STRANGE MINTAGE PATTERN - - The 2017 Enhanced Uncirculated Coin set went on sale on August 1, with sales of 225,000 sets. As of August 6, sales were 217,514. August 13 showed 223,310. August 20 showed 211,273. And August 27 showed 187,304. Canceled and returned orders caused this.

- IF YOU ORDERED THIS ONE EARLY, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIG WINNER - - The Royal Canadian Mint accidentally produced a "mule" coin, a gold $2,500 coin with the obverse of a Proof $250 silver version of that coin. Records indicate only ten such coins were struck, of which 5 were melted.

- A FIRST FOR THE U. S. MINT - - The first palladium coins were issued.

- IF YOU DO THE CRIME, BE PREPARED TO DO THE TIME - - Former New Jersey coin dealer William Dominick pled guilty in Federal court to avoiding taxes on over $400K in income from fraudulently obtaining credit cards to purchase bulk quantities of coins from the U. S. Mint.

- IF YOU DO THE CRIME, BE PREPARED TO DO THE TIME (Part 2) - - German police have arrested 4 suspects in the theft of the 100 kilogram gold Canadian coin with a face value of $1 million. At the current price of gold, the coin is worth over $4 million. The coin is thought to have

been melted.

- IT'S STILL THERE - - Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Sen. Mitch McConnell, and others tour Fort Knox and the gold is still there.

- NEW MEMBER OF THE CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - - Retired basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Welcome, Kareem, loved the sky hooks!

- AND YOU THOUGHT THOSE OLD SHELL GAME TOKENS WERE WORTHLESS - - two proof coins were discovered struck on aluminum Shell tokens.

- AND TWO MORE GREAT DISCOVERIES - - Another Washington quarter with two reverse dies is certified by PCGS, and also a 1968-S proof quarter is discovered struck in 90% silver.

- OH SO CLOSE AWARD #1 - -1861 Confederate States of America half dollar (Original) Ex: Eric P. Newman sold for $960,000. This exceeded the prior record which was $881,250.

- OH SO CLOSE AWARD #2 - -1811 half cent MS66RB sold for $998,750 at the Pogue sale.

- OH SO CLOSE AWARD #3 - - 1821 large cent PR65BN with wonderful toning sold for $99,875 at the Pogue sale.

- 1933 DOUBLE EAGLE CASE FINALLY ENDS - - In 2016, the full district court decided, in 2016, in a 6 - 3 decision, in favor of the government, and awarded them the ten confiscated 1933 double eagles. The Langbords appealed to the Supreme Court of the U. S., which declined to hear the case. I predicted the outcome of the case on March 29, 2009: "the government doesn't stand a chance if the case is decided on its merits. The only things [in my opinion] the government has in its favor are (1) an endless supply of money and lawyers to continue to fight the case and appeal it if they don't prevail, and (2) the "home-court" advantage (the government is one party to the case, and the government runs the court system."

- BEST SALE (ALL COINS) - - The D. Brent Pogue Collection. Part 5 completed the sales during 2017, and included some amazing coins, although the 1804 dollar and 1822 half eagle did not sell. The total of the five sales was $106 million.

- BEST SALE (TONED COINS) - - Legend Auctions sold the Toned Morgan Dollar Northern Lights Collection. The collection contained absolutely stunning toned dollars.

- GONE TOO SOON - - Jon Amato, author of books on the 1796-97 half dollars and the 1802 half dime; Benjamin Bell, world coin dealer; J. S.

G. Boggs, artist who created his own banknotes; Colin Bruce, editor of the Standard Catalog of World Coins; Catherine Bullowa-Moore, Philadelphia coin dealer for over 60 years; James Cohen, New Orleans dealer for over 70 years; Mike Hayes, collector of Barber coinage; Leon Hendrickson, founder of Silvertowne; Carl Herkowitz, numismatic writer; Jerry Kochel, Lancaster, Pa. collector and exhibitor; Jerry Lebo, journalist, hobbyist, and long-time Central States bourse chair and secretary; Eric P. Newman, one of the most influential numismatists in our lifetime; Ed Reiter, numismatic writer; James Ruddy, dealer who joined with Q. David Bowers to form Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, one of the largest coin dealerships at that time.

- BEST CREW TO WORK WITH - - My table assistants, Bill Bugert, Len Augsburger, and Dick Graham, as well as my Office Manager Karen.

- WHEN I STARTED THIS BUSINESS - - I thought it would be a nice part-time career. It turned into full-time fairly quickly. It has been twelve years now, and each year has been more enjoyable and successful than the previous year. A very large part of our success is due to our friendly and loyal customers who make this business fun every day. Thank you very, very much!

I wish all of my customers and their families a happy, healthy and successful 2018!

Rich Uhrich

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